

International Application No. PCT/EP2004/004220
Attorney Docket: LIMB3004/JEK

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) In a [[A]] device for locking the steering shaft (1) of a motor vehicle against rotation by means of a locking bolt (2) cooperating with locking recesses (3) of the steering shaft (1), the improvement wherein, the locking bolt and which, with the aid of a control member (14) that can be rotated back and forth, can be displaced back and forth radially relative to the axis of rotation of the control member (14) between a locking position and a release position, and which engages with a laterally protruding pin (19); a spiral groove (18) of the control member (14), which groove, on the end face of the control member (14) adjacent to the locking bolt (2), winds around the axis of rotation of the control member, the improvement further comprising:

said characterized by a one-piece locking bolt (2), formed in one piece, and said pin the pin (19) of which is displaceably supported in the locking bolt (2) and is being spring-loaded in the direction towards the control member;

said (14), which control member having has an inclined surface (24) cooperating with the pin (19) and rising from the bottom (22) of the spiral groove (18) of the control member (14) to a the flat surface (23) thereof facing toward the locking bolt (2), so that the pin (19) of the locking bolt (2) can extend from leave the spiral groove (18) of the control member (14) against the action of its spring loading (21), and the control member (14) can be rotated as far as into the position corresponding to the locking position of the locking bolt (2) even if no locking recess (3) of the steering shaft (1) is located in front of the locking bolt (2) and the locking bolt cannot move into its locking position.

2. (Currently Amended) The improvement device according to claim 1, wherein characterized in that the inclined surface (24) of the control member (14) extends along the spiral groove (18) of the control member and begins at the a point (25) on the bottom (22) of the spiral groove (18) at which the pin (19) of the locking bolt (2) rests upon rotation of the control member (14) for displacement of the locking bolt (2) out of the release position into the locking position, when no locking recess (3) of the steering shaft (1) is located in front of the locking bolt (2) and the locking bolt cannot move into its locking position.

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3. (Currently Amended) The improvement device according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein characterized in that the locking bolt (2) is spring-loaded in the direction towards the steering shaft (1).
4. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein ~~2 or 3~~, characterized in that the control member (14) is formed as a circular disk with circumferential teeth (29) for engagement by a drive pinion or a drive worm (30).
5. (Currently Amended) The improvement device according to claim 4, wherein characterized in that an electric motor (13) with reversible direction of rotation cooperates with the drive pinion or the drive worm (30).
6. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 5, wherein characterized in that the electric motor (13) is disposed coaxially relative to the drive worm (30) and next to the locking bolt (2).